121. The establishment of public libraries in all the important centres of the State.

Mr. P. Manthramoorthi Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that one of the best and easiest methods of spreading knowledge was through the establishment of libraries and reading rooms in the State. He referred to the "Valliyur Sali Gottrabhi Vridhi Sangom Library" at Vadasseri and said that it served a useful purpose as a means of popular education. In the name of that Sangom, he requested that the Government might be pleased to extend their wonted generosity to that infant institution, which was started to promote the cause of one of the educationally backward classes in the State, *viz.*, the Saliars.

In Baroda, a good many public libraries were maintained at the sole cost of the Government. A similar library system had been recently started in the State of Mysore also. In Bombay, the Local Service League had instituted free travelling libraries. The Member therefore argued that the subject of free libraries should receive the serious consideration of the Government. He next referred to the Trivandrum Public Library and pointed out that the collection of works and periodicals in Malayalam and Tamil was exceedingly poor. The necessity of a good Malayalam and Tamil library in the State was seriously felt. He therefore requested that the Government should take up the question without delay and establish, at the start, libraries in the towns of Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam and Parur.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

122. The disabilities of the Kaniyar community in the matter of education.

Mr. M. K. Padmanabha Kaniyar (Member, Nominated) said that the Kaniyars numbered about 11,987 in the State and that, out of those, only seven had knowledge of English. Replying to the Dewan he said that none of the seven men had passed any examination. The community was comparatively poor both in numbers and in wealth, and it had not yet obtained any assistance from the Government in the matter of its English education or in political preferment. He added that the community could not advance or progress without substantial help from the Government. The community possessed amongst its members some who were cultured in Sanskrit and Malayalam and who were experts in Astrology and Ayurvedic treatment. He requested that they should be encouraged by the Government and that, in matters educational, the members of his community should be granted concessions similar to those already granted to Mahomedans and other educationally backward classes in the State.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

123. The grivances of the Ezhava community in the matter of education.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan (Member, Nominated) thanked His Highness' Government for opening the Ayurveda Patasala to the Ezhavas also. He then said that the following were some of the grievances of the community in matters educational :—

(1) The Sanskrit Patasala had been raised to the status of a College. Admission to that College was however not open to Ezhavas. That disability should be removed as early as possible.

(2) As a result of repeated representations, most of the Elementary Boys' and Girls' Schools in the State were declared open to the Ezhavas. But, in spite of the orders of the Government, the Ezhavas failed to secure admission to many of those schools and there remained others which the Government had not yet thrown open to the community. The objections that had been raised or would be raised in the case of the latter were frivolous such as the existence of a temple, *kavu*, *prathishta* or tank near the schools. A careful enquiry would show that the temples, tanks &c., were not situated in objectionable proximity and that the Ezhavas enjoyed right of way within equal distances in other places. As instances of schools into which the children of the community were denied access, he mentioned the following :—

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